

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to return.

PRESIDENT: The bill is returned. Now LB 406.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Rumery has a motion to return LB 406 to Select File for specific amendment. The amendment is on page 479 of the Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, many of you know that this bill, proposing to license audiologists and speech therapists, has been before us for about three or four years now. We are offering some suggestions in the form of amendments that we think that both sides of this issue can accept. This is the reason why we are suggesting this, first, it will conform the definition of audiologist to that designed by the audiologists nationally, and approved by the federal FDA, and prevent infringement on hearing aid dealer's licenses. Second, it will remove all exemptions from licensing audiologists, except some federal employees when in the line of duty. Third, it will recognize that certified hearing audiologists is a nationally respected badge of competence given those hearing aid dealers completing academic study and examination. Fourth, it will clarify that to sell and fit hearing aids in Nebraska even audiologists must be licensed under the existing Nebraska law. Fifth, align the grandfather clauses fairly as to all concerned, including a limited audiologist license for certified hearing aid audiologists who test for and fit hearing aids. This has to lay over a day, does it Mr. President?

SENATOR MARVEL PRESIDING

SENATOR MARVEL: No it doesn't, Senator Rumery. Are you making a motion? You want to take it up now?

SENATOR RUMERY: We'd like to. As the Clerk indicated the amendment is printed in the Journal on page 479. I would move the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR MARVEL: The motion is to return 406 to Select File for specific amendment. Is there a second to the motion? I have three other.... Senator Rumery, Senator Koch, Senator Lewis, then Senator Marsh. Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I object to this type of amending process. This bill was given ample hearing in committee. These individuals thought the bill would be killed in committee. They assumed it would be killed. They did not appear. Suddenly they come in with the virtual rewrite of a bill. This tactic, I think, is unforgivable. If we are about to allow this to happen to us, we might as well do away with public hearings. Virtually, we're going to grandfather everyone into the business, regardless of their qualities and capabilities as pertains to a very important aspect of a human beings life, which is hearing. I object to us returning this bill for this amendment.

SENATOR MARVEL: Chair recognizes Senator Richard Lewis.